The State

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Celebrate S.C. women

You'd be surprised at some of the adventures experienced by the women of South Carolina.

The American Association of University Women would be delighted to tell you about them. Each year the Greater Columbia branch of the AAUW publishes a calendar, "Significant South Carolina Women."

They do a good job of making the educational interesting. Did you know, for example, that the indigo grown by Eliza Lucas Pinckney made the dye for the blue of Continental Army uniforms? Miss Pinckney was in charge of three of her father's S.C. plantations when just a teen; yet she was brave and innovative enough to experiment with new crops.

Did you know that the seed for the nation's 4-H Clubs was planted by Marie Cromer Seigler in 1910, when she organized a Tomato Club? Tomato Club members grew tomatoes on one-tenth of an acre, kept records from seeding to canning and participated in a canning bee. The winner won a scholarship to Winthrop College. Mrs. Seigler helped 3,000 young women "become independent by growing and putting up vegetables," according to the calendar text.

Among contemporaries celebrated for the year 2000 are Andrea VanLandingham Steen, first female president of the S.C. Archeology Society; Eartha Kitt, a singer and dancer best known as Cat Woman on the TV series "Batman;" and Becky Hardee, an environmental lawyer whose student-activist arrest graces the calendar's cover.

You can find the calendar at local bookstores or order it by calling (803) 788-8927. Not only can you educate someone about our state and its women, you can help a good cause: Proceeds will fund the Barbara W. Moxon American Fellowship, which will award scholarships to women in higher education.